

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 286127

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, TU

SUBJECT: US-TURKEY RELATIONS: NOVEMBER 30 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EXCHANGE AT NOV 30 DEPARTMENT NOON
PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. HODDING, THERE'S A REPORT THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT
HAS WARNED THE UNITED STATES THAT IT MAY EXPEL THE 7,000
U.S. TROOPS STATIONED THERE IF THERE'S NO PROGRESS TOWARD
AN AGREEMENT BY NEXT SPRING -- ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVAL
OF THE BASE AGREEMENT.

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A. I WOULD SAY EMPHATICALLY THERE'S BEEN NO SUCH WARNING.
INDEED, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN EVERY INDICATION
OF BUILDING WITH US A STRONG DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND THIS
HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY A STATEMENT OF THE TURKISH GOVERN-
MENT, INCLUDING BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK IN
EARLY OCTOBER.

THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE OBJECTIVE OF AN EARLY RESTORATION OF A SOUND DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY.

I CANNOT GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE TURKS BEYOND DENYING EMPHATICALLY THAT PARTICULAR

ALLEGATION, BUT WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE FLEXIBILITY THEY'VE SHOWN AND BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON ALL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

Q. WELL, IF WE'RE SO ANXIOUS FOR THE EARLY RESTORATION OF A SOUND DEFENSE AGREEMENT--IS THAT RIGHT, IS THAT THE PHRASE YOU USED?

A. YES, I THINK IT WAS.

Q. -- WHY AREN'T WE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN SITTING ON THE HILL FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS?

A. WE WILL, OF COURSE, MAKE THAT DECISION AT SOME POINT AS TO WHEN THAT SHOULD GO FORWARD; AND I'M NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT WHEN THAT WILL TAKE PLACE.

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Q. WHY SHOUDN'T THAT BE?

A. ON MOVING FORWARD THE DCA, WHICH IS ON TH. HILL.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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